

Approved May 2, 2013

**Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 4, 2013
Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Julie Palakovich Carr, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

Commissioners Absent: Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe and Lea Rosenbohm

Guests: Mark Pierzchala, City Councilmember

Tom Moore, City Councilmember

Mark Charles, Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:33 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Lye seconded approval of the March 7, 2013 meeting minutes with no corrections. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Rockville's Tree Protection Ordinance

Councilmember Moore led a discussion about the existing City tree protection ordinance. Mr. Moore indicated that the tree ordinance is the source of many of the citizen complaints brought to his attention. He wanted to get the Commission's views regarding the implementation, enforcement and cost of the ordinance. He explored whether Commissioners felt like the ordinance was favoring green field development outside the City rather than infill within the City limits. There was broad consensus that some aspects of the ordinance may need to be strengthened while other aspects of it could benefit from more flexibility. Commissioners also indicated a willingness to draft a white paper on the subject later this calendar year, and perhaps sponsor a joint meeting with the Parks Board to discuss it.

Rockville Pike Redevelopment Plan

Commissioners Rosenbohm, Becker and Palakovich Carr drafted talking points to be used at the April 24 public hearing on the draft Pike Plan. After discussion, the Commission endorsed the testimony 6-0-0.

Multi-City Meeting

The next meeting of the multi-city boards and commissions is Thursday, April 18 in Chevy Chase. Commissioners Becker, Cardon and Dighe are planning on attending. The Rockville representatives will offer to host the October meeting. The meeting will start at 7:00 at 4301 Willow Lane in the Jane Lawton Recreation Center. The Center is near the Bethesda Metro and offers plenty of parking. The Town will provide sandwiches, chips and drinks at 6:30 for those attending.

Hometown Holidays Preparations

The Environmental Movie

- Despite repeated attempts, Mark Charles has been unable to communicate with the *Chasing Ice* film distributors to secure the film for HTH. Commissioner Lye contacted the distributors and received an immediate response. Mr. Charles will make one more attempt to rent the film. If it falls through, no film will be screened this year.
- Commissioner Kravitz had offered a generic environmental film description and show times for the Festival program, but she was not certain it would be included. Commissioner Hosmer will call Coleen McQuity to confirm.
- The Commission decided it would use last year's VIP email addresses to advertise the film for both Friday eve and Saturday. The film will also be advertised on the social media outlets and the City HTH webpage.

The Alternative Energy Demonstrations

- Commissioner Becker has identified a wind energy vendor who is considering bringing a vertical wind turbine to the festival. A solar vender had previously confirmed its participation. The Commission plans to offer residents the opportunity to explore the potential for solar panels on their home using Google Maps and a Department of Energy website, and would like to distribute buttons that encourage residential solar installations. Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Reed seconded the purchase of \$200 worth of buttons. The motion passed 5-1-0.
- Currently, approximately 68 Rockville homes have solar panels. The Commission would like to see that number climb to 150 or more over the next several years.

The Booth

- The booth will be staffed using three 1.5 hour shifts from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 25. Environmental Management will staff the booth on Sunday, May 26.
- Commissioner Kravitz requested that Environmental Management reprint and laminate the graphics for use on the prize/trivia wheel.
- The Commission is planning on raffling off another rain barrel or two during the festival. Commissioner Hosmer moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to spend up to \$200 for two rain barrels. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Pepco C&I Program Follow-Up

After the March Commission meeting, Commissioner Becker met with PEPCO to follow up the meeting discussions. The company is working with Montgomery County to co-sponsor an energy competition and is not very interested in a separate initiative with Rockville. On the other hand, PEPCO is very interested in working (by providing up to a 50% cost share) to make Rockville and its residents and businesses more energy efficient. They also have funds that can be used to market the opportunity to the residents and businesses.

Maryvale Creek Stream Clean Up

The next stream clean-up of the Commission's adopted stream segment will take place on April 6, 2013 at 10:30. The group will meet at the picnic pavilion area off First Street.

Environmental Management Staff Report

- Mark Charles reported on plans to implement a recycling survey in the Lincoln Park and King Farm neighborhoods. We have a draft survey and introductory letter going through the approval process. We have been offered 35 Rockville Rewards discount shopping cards to provide an incentive to submit the surveys. Residents can submit them via mail, on-line or by hand delivery at Environmental Management, the Thomas Farm and Lincoln Park Recreation Centers, and the Rockville Swim Center.
- On March 18, the Mayor and Council approved the March 23 Earth Hour Proclamation. Commissioner Palakovich Carr accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Commission. This year, the entire Civic Center Park went dark from 8:30 through dawn.
- On April 1, the Mayor and Council approved a proclamation declaring April to be *Earth Month* and April 22 to be *Earth Day* in Rockville. Commissioners Becker, Palakovich Carr, Dighe, Hosmer, and Reed attended and accepted the proclamation.
- Environmental Management has hired Audra Lew as the City's permanent sediment and erosion inspector. We are currently interviewing for the part time commercial inspector and hope to make a hire by the next meeting.
- Environmental Management will move to 20 Courthouse Square, Suite 204 on or about May 10, 2013. Phone numbers and email addresses should remain unchanged.
- Three Environmental Excellence Award nominees were recently submitted to Environmental Management. These will be electronically distributed and can be discussed at next month's meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 by unanimous consensus.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in the **Diamondback Conference Room** of the **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**. The public is invited to attend.